STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

by South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

STORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: G. U. Reed's Historic: Elijah Hubbard Roberts House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Village COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 138-140 Washington Street
4. OWNER(S): Gladwin U. and Dorothea Reed PUBLIC X PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Commercial/Apartments Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no
   Interior accessible: X yes, explain commercial use no

ESCRIPION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1838
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   X clapboard  X asbestos siding
   X wood shingle  X asphalt siding
   X board & batten  X stucco
   X aluminum siding  X concrete: type:
   X other: flush boarded pediment
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   X wood frame; X post and beam  X balloon
   X load bearing masonry  X structural iron or steel
   X other:
10. ROOF: type: X gable  X flat
    X gambrel  X shed  X mansard  X monitor  X sawtooth
    X round  X other
    material:
    X wood shingle  X roll asphalt  X tin  X slate
    X asphalt shingle X built up  X tile  X other:
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 43'x39'; rear wing 34'x39'
12. CONDITION: Structural: X excellent  X good
    Exterior: X excellent  X good  X fair  X deteriorated
    X fair  X deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: X no X yes, explain: Fenestration, first floor rear addition
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    X barn  X shed  X garage
    X carriage house  X shop  X garden
    X other landscape features or buildings:
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    X open land  X woodland  X residential  X scattered buildings visible from site
    X commercial  X industrial  X rural  X high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This Greek Revival house faces south
    from the north side of Washington Street at the head of Broad Street. This conspicuous sit-
    ing commands the long view south down Broad Street which, at the time this house was built,
    was one of the city's most fashionable residential streets. Washington Street in this area
    displays a mixture of residential and commercial buildings.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Ionic colonnaded porch
Elaborate scroll design cast iron railing

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was built around 1838 for Elijah Hubbard Roberts, a ship chandler and merchant. In 1853 the property was acquired by the Rev. William Jarvis, Rector of Christ Church, then located on Broad Street (see form for 119 Broad Street). On June 6, 1856 the wedding reception of Elizabeth Jarvis and Colonel Samuel Colt, the famous arms manufacturer, took place in this house. For this occasion a red carpet was laid down Broad Street from Christ Church (now Russell Library) to this house. From 1861 to 1900 the property was owned by the Stedman family. George C. Stedman opened the "Washington Avenue Gardens" behind this house before 1874. By 1933 the house had been converted to apartments, and by 1959 it had commercial space on the first floor.

This brick house presents a symmetrical facade distinguished by a fine Ionic colonnaded porch. A delicate iron railing of elaborate scroll design surmounts the portico; it was added by Emily Stedman who acquired the property in 1861. The interior has been greatly altered.

From its conspicuous site at the head of Broad Street, the house exemplifies the former elegance of the Broad Street area as a residential neighborhood.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 5/78
view: south
negative on file: Roll 20, #8

COMPiled BY:

name: John E. Reynolds
date: 8/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

× none known   highways   vandalism   developers   other:

renewal   private   deterioration   zoning   explanation:

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Elijah Hubbard Roberts House
138-140 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457